



National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)–Hematology Branch Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant Patient Services and Information

Welcome to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH Clinical Center, located in Bethesda, Maryland, is the NIH's center for clinical research. The NIH Clinical Center is the world's largest hospital devoted to clinical research. Our doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, and support staff are committed to providing you with the best medical care. Your participation in clinical research at NIH is an investment in health and health care.

Medical care received at NIH is provided free of charge. Under some circumstances, however, the costs of outpatient medical care may be referred to your health insurance carrier. If you do not have health insurance coverage, the cost of those charges may be your responsibility. Also, the cost of medical care provided by institutions and physicians outside NIH is generally your responsibility and/or the responsibility of your health insurance carrier.

Patients of the Hematology Branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute are responsible for meeting all nonmedical expenses for themselves and their care giver with their own or donated funds. A care giver to accompany the patient is required for protocol participa-

tion. Nonmedical expenses may include the cost of housing, meals, transportation, and telephone calls. Peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSC) patients and care givers should anticipate staying in the local area for 4 to 6 months. Nonmedical expenses for a 6-month stay will total about \$15,000. Please see your social worker for information on housing resources.

Initial visit

As a PBSC patient or care giver, you are responsible for your own transportation and hotel/motel accommodations during your first screening visit. In certain circumstances, you may need to remain in the local area until admission for transplantation.

Treatment follow-up

You are expected to provide your own accommodations and to meet the costs of all nonmedical expenses after transplantation.

Long-term follow-up / travel

Long-term follow-up is the period after you return home. If you live outside a commuting radius of 50 miles and have been authorized by your NIH physician, you may be eligible for travel and voucher stipend for follow-up visits.

Transportation (air, bus, car, train) may be covered by the Institute for patients and authorized medical guardians for required follow-up visits during this period.

All covered travel within the United States and international travel from the U.S. port of entry to NIH must be arranged through our contracted travel service* (1-866-227-9339).

Covered travel will be paid directly by the Institute to the contracted travel service (first floor of the hospital). Outpatients who choose to stay in the area for personal reasons after follow-up visits may be subject to travel restrictions.

Lodging voucher stipends for follow-up visits may be provided when traveling alone or with an authorized medical guardian. Lodging will not be paid for those staying at the Children's Inn. Lodging expenses incurred after medical follow-up are your responsibility.

When lodging is authorized, bring your hotel/motel receipts to the Voucher Office (next to admissions). The Voucher Office is open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except holidays). The Voucher Office will give you a voucher to take to the cashier's office. You must bring a picture I.D. to get funds from the cashier.

NIH airport shuttles

NIH operates free shuttles to and from BWI, Dulles, and Reagan National Airports from Sunday to Friday.

* Use of this service by NIH does not constitute an endorsement or implied endorsement for other types of travel-related services.

Please Note: shuttles do not operate on Saturdays and some holidays.

Local transportation

NIH operates free shuttles to and from numerous area hotels. You can get shuttle schedules at the transportation desk located at the Clinical Center north entrance. Metrobus and Metrorail (subway) schedule information can be obtained by calling Metro at 202-637-7000. When you call, give the Metro staff member your local address and destination—Metro can tell you how to get there. The Metrorail stop at NIH is "Medical Center" on the Red Line.

Telephone calls

Long-distance calls to family and friends within the continental United States may be made from your inpatient room or in the 7th floor outpatient area. For international calls, you may buy long-distance calling cards from the R&W Gift shop in room B1C06.

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

Products/resources named serve as examples and do not imply endorsement by NIH. The fact that a certain product/resource is not named does not imply that such product/resource is unsatisfactory.

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Questions about the Clinical Center?
<http://www.cc.nih.gov/comments.shtml>
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